

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15 stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1-8, 10-11, and 14 have been amended and 16-18 have added. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

As discussed in the specification, a multi-domain service broker functions as an intermediary broker of a service agreement between domains. See p. 19, ll. 8-13. More specifically, the multi-domain service broker selects a suitable domain for satisfying a required quality level and determines a corresponding communication route so that network services of consistent quality can be provided throughout the multi-domain network. See p. 18, ll. 18-23. In addition, the multi-domain service broker performs brokerage of negotiation between network service management devices for establishing the communication route to realize a service level agreement. In response to such a service level agreement, servers in the network service management devices detect the status of communication devices and perform setting and control of information, in order that a service can be operated between customer networks via the operations management networks of a plurality of providers. See p. 22, ll. 19 - p. 23, ll. 19.

Processes between the multi-domain service broker and the network service management devices are divided. The multi-domain service broker performs brokerage between the network service management devices in order to provide the required quality level to a customer in a multi-domain network. The network service management devices perform negotiation of a service level agreement, the detection of

the status of the communication devices for operating the service, and the setting and control of information.

Because the multi-domain service broker performs brokerage between the providers to perform a service level agreement, it is possible to resolve the problem in which "a network service of guaranteed quality cannot be provided via this type of interconnected network." See p. 2, ln. 15 - p. 3, ln. 6.

One of the main functions of the multi-domain service broker is to perform brokerage between the network service management devices. On the other hand, the detection of the status of the communication devices in the domains and setting and control of the information is performed by the network service management devices of the respective providers. As a result, with respect to the detection of the status of the communication devices in the domains and setting and control of the information, it is possible to perform different processes at the respective providers. Therefore, even if providing uniform quality in a network including a number of network service providers, the problem as explained on page 3, lines 7-12 of the specification does not arise, that is, "there is no option but to provide high performance devices for exchanging information individually within each communication network, and consequently conventional networks have been plagued by problems such as a lack of network expandability and a lack of connection flexibility".

With the service broker device and the network service management device as recited in the independent claims, the limitations incorporated therein, the aforementioned features and advantageous effects can be achieved. None of the cited references disclose or suggest such features and advantageous effects of the present invention.

Among the limitations of Applicant's independent claims is a service broker device at a functional host layer said network service management device, the service

broker device receiving service information on services which could be provided by the respective domains and domain information which are output from the network service management device which belongs to each of the providers, ... and brokering a service level agreement between the operations management networks of said plurality of providers by selecting route information and a network service management device for ensuring and end-to-end quality level required by the customer based on the received service information and domain information. This feature is not present in any of the previously cited references.

The QoS agent and QoS manager in Arunachalam (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,122) fail to act as a service broker device as explicitly recited in the claims. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that this reference fails to anticipate the pending claims no render them obvious. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice of allowance for the pending claims.

Applicant has addressed all previous rejections and objections. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully Submitted,

By

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY
LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 835-1400
Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs